2 39. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of formatting the information into a map for display to a user of the port, the map showing the items of interest.

3 40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity defining a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the first location, and wherein the step of formatting the information into a map comprises the step of displaying the vicinity and the items of interest within the vicinity.

4 41. A method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of selecting, at the port, a shape of the geographic extent and of displaying the map in the specified shape.

5 42. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category comprises the step of generating a request signal to the database.

6 43. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category comprises the step of utilizing a communication link selected from the group consisting of: a telephone link, a satellite link, a radio-frequency link, an internet link, a fiber-optic link, a coaxial cable link, a cellular network, and a microwave link.

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44. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating, at the database, the information, the step of generating comprising utilizing one of a personal computer, a mainframe, a work-station, a mini-computer, and a digital data processor.

45. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity specifying a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the location.

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the step of receiving comprises the step of utilizing one of the following communication links: a television, a telephone, a facsimile, an audible speaker, and a display.

47. A method according to claim 38, wherein the steps of selecting comprises utilizing a user interface selected from the group of television interface, facsimile interface, keyboard, mouse and computer interface.

48. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating the information at the database, the information including street and landmark information.

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49. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises the step of selecting the second location defined by a GPS receiver substantially located with the port.

50. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of requesting, at the port, additional detail about at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising the step of transmitting, from the database, the additional detail to the port.

51. A method according to claim 50, wherein the step of transmitting additional detail comprises transmitting multimedia information including at least one of video, prerecorded music, advertising information, and digital pictures.

52. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of communicating advertising information to the port in response to the database receiving the category.

53. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of arranging the information hierarchically within the database.

54. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of selecting one or more additional categories at the port, communicating the additional categories to the database, and receiving, at the port, additional information defining geographic locations of items of interest in the additional categories.

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55.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises the step of utilizing the second location of the port.

56.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database, from time to time, so as to maintain current location information within the database.

57.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information on a display at the port, the display being selected from one of the following: CRT, LCD, LED array, and mixtures thereof.

58.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the information comprises the step of utilizing one of a facsimile, a printer, and a voice communication synthesizer.

59.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of categories wherein a user of the port can select the category.

60.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of locations wherein a user of the port can select the second location.

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61. A method according to claim 60, further comprising the step of providing the second location in a first mode, and of providing the first location in a second mode corresponding to a remote location relative to the user.

62. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information within a map of at least a portion of one of the following: a country, a state, and a city.

63. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of prompting a user at the port for additional information in response to a category request that identifies a number of the items of interest.

64. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the category comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the category into the port.

65. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the first location into the port.

66. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving comprises utilizing a voice generation system to audibly describe items of interest to a user of the port.

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67. A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database from the port so as to maintain current information within the database.

68. Cancel.

69. Cancel.

70. Database methodology for providing geo-defined information to a user remotely connected to a database, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the database, information including a category of items of interest and a location;

determining items of interest that are within the category and that are located in a vicinity of the location and based upon spatial detail within the database;

transmitting identifying information about the items of information to the user, the identifying information specifying the items of interest with a name and a geographic location relative to the location.

71. Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the steps of displaying the vicinity as a map and displaying the identifying information on the map.

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72.   Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the step of transmitting the category and the location through a port connected to the database, the port having a user interface which permits entry of the location and the category by the user.

73.   Cancel.

74.   Database methodology according to claim 73, wherein the step of receiving comprises the step of utilizing a session manager for responding to requests at the database and for forwarding data requests and other information to servers connected with the database.

75.   A method of mapping items of interest relative to a geo-defined location, comprising the steps of:

providing a map of a starting vicinity on a display for [the]a user, the display being connected for communication with a database, the starting vicinity being selected from the group consisting essentially of a country, a state, and a city; selecting, at the display and for communication to the database, a reduced vicinity within the starting vicinity, the reduced vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the starting vicinity; and providing a map of the reduced vicinity at the display, the map defining locations of the items of interest within the reduced vicinity.

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76.   A method according to claim 75, wherein the step of selecting a reduced vicinity comprises the step of utilizing a computer mouse to point and click on a region within the starting vicinity, the region being representative of the reduced vicinity.

77.   A method according to claim 75, further comprising the steps of selecting, at the display and for communication to the database, at least one additional vicinity within the reduced vicinity, and of providing an additional map defining relative positions of the items of interest within the additional vicinity, the additional vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the geographic extent of the reduced vicinity.

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